

^{Taaf.}
Count Taaffe's
LETTERS
FROM THE
Imperial Camp,
To his BROTHER the
Earl of Carlingford
HERE IN
LONDON:

Giving an Account of the most Considerable
Actions, both before, and at, the Raising of the
Siege at VIENNA, together with several
Remarkable Passages afterward, in the Late
Victorious Campaigne against the TURKS
in HUNGARY.

With an Addition of two other LETTERS from
a Young English Nobleman, a Voluntier in the
IMPERIAL ARMY.

L O N D O N,
Printed for T. B. and are to be sold by Robert:
Clavel at the Peacock in St. Pauls
Church-yard. 1684.

LETTERS FROM THE COURT LISTS

Imperial Camp

To his BRITANNIC MAJESTY
The Prince of Wales



LONDON

149, 333
Giving an Account of the most considerable
Actions, both before, and at, the Battle of the
Marston, 1141, and the Battle of Tewkesbury, 1471.
Remains of the Palace of the late
Richard III. and the Tower of London.
in HINDOON.

With an Addition of two other VOLUMES
a Young English Nobleman, a Volunteer in the
A.M.P. & A.L.A. A.R.M.T.

LONDON
Printed for T. D. and are to be sold by Robert
Clavel at the Theatre in St. James's
Church-yard, 1781.

**TO THE
READER.**

THE Siege of Vienna, and the War of Hungary being at present the common Subject of Discourse, I presume it will not be unpleasing to you, if I give you a more faithful and distinct Account of those Successes of the Christian Arms against the Turks, than hath yet been published; such Account not collected from Fame, or Transcribed out of Mercuries and Gazetts, but Original Letters themselves, which have been already seen and approv'd off, by his MAJESTY and his ROYAL HIGHNESS; and those written by a Cavalier of a high Reputation, who was not only present in the Actions of which he writes, but being a general Officer in the Imperial Army, bore a considerable Part in them himself. This is the Lord Taaffe, a Subject of His Majesties, who to his Elder Brother the Earl of Carlisle, and to the Marquis of Grana Governor of Flanders, sends these Letters, in which you may not only discern a vein of Truth, but a certain Modesty and Nobleness of Nature, since without arrogating any thing to himself, he does not omit to do Justice to others; By these Qualities, and his prudent Conduct in a Forreign COURT, he hath acquir'd much Esteem and

To the Reader.

and Trust with the Emperor, whom he serves, the Affection and Confidence of his Highness, the Duke of Loraine, and a great Name over all the Empire. So that he does honour not only to himself, but to his Country, and to his Loyal Family, and Noble Ancestors of which he is descended. An Example to awake the Vertue of the English Nation, and make all Gentlemen sensible how much more it would be both for their Interest and Honour to imploy their Swords in this Occasion for the Defence of Christendom, than to waste their Youth in Gaming-houses and Taverns, and kill one another as they do in senseless and brutal Quarrels.

Passau, July 24. 1683.

For the Earl of Carlingford at London.

I Had the Honour to hear from you by my Lord *Lansdowne*, who had he not been very full of Courage and Bravery, the Unhappy State of Affairs here had certainly diverted him from so generous a Design, but since he is resolv'd to try his Fortune with us, the Duty I owe to the King, and his Royal Highness's Commands, the pleasure I have in obliging so gallant a Gentleman as my Lord *Lansdowne*, and the Interest you take therein engages me to omit nothing for his Service, as well as to seek an opportunity to acquire a Friend of his merit.

Instead of Seventy thousand Men, which was promis'd the Duke of *Lorraine* to carry on this Terrible War, he never muster'd yet above Thirty Thousand; and for these two Months we have lain in *Hungary*, we have been Idle, attempting little for fear of lessening our Strength before the Arrival of the *Ottoman* Forces, having already, what through Sickness, and necessary Detachments reduced our Army to Three and Twenty Thousand Men, and that was the utmost

most of our Force, when the *Grand Visier* on
 the Seventh Instant, with an Army of at least,
 One Hundred and Threescore Thousand Figh-
 ting Men, posted himself within Cannon-shot
 of us, the small River *Raab* running between,
 neither do I speak the most, but on the con-
 trary all the Prisoners we have taken as well as
 other Advices make them above Two hundred
 Thousand, besides the *Tartars* and the *Hungari-
 an Rebels*. You may easily imagine, my Lord,
 whether this Appearance did not surprize us, ha-
 ving always pleas'd our selves with the hopes
 That our Alliance with *Poland* might have obli-
 ged the *Turk* to divide his Forces, however tho
 we found the contrary, we yet maintain'd our
 Post that day, and repuls'd Twenty Thousand
Tartars, who forded the River under our very
 Noses. The Enemy thus finding how difficult
 it was to force his way to us, order'd out a De-
 tachment of Thirty Thousand Horse to spread
 themselves all along the River over against our
 Right Wing, with a Reserve of *Hungarians* com-
 manded by the Count *Budiani*, a Nobleman of
 that Country lately revolted, and being inform'd
 at night that the *Turks* were come over the Ri-
 ver, without any difficulty, *Budiani*, with the said
Hungarian Rebels joyning with them, and decla-
 ring

ring for the Rebel *Teckelej*, as also considering the disproportion in our Numbers, that the River was fordable in several Places, the Enemy possess'd of all the advantageous Grounds, and able when they pleas'd, under protection of their Canon to force this Passage, and at the same time a great Body of their Horse, who being already on this side, were in a posture to charge us, either in Flank or Rear, his Highness judg'd that Post not safe, quitting it that night, having first put Six Thousand Men into *Raab*, which of all Places, seem'd most in danger to be besieged. Our Foot marched towards *Presburgh* by the Isle of *Schutz*, where they were out of the reach of their insulting numbers, and our Horse through the Plains which extend from *Raab* to *Presburgh*.

The *Thirteenth Instant*, I commanded the Rear Guard of Four hundred Horse, when I was attack'd by Two Thousand *Tartars* upon the Plains of *Peternel*, and at the same time as ill luck would have it, they had Alarm'd our *Ayant-Guard*, with a Party falling upon our Baggage, and his Highness fearing least the Enemy might cut us off from *Vienna*, where the Emperor with the whole Court as yet was, made the Horse march with all possible speed thither, leaving only behind one Regiment to Mount

the Guard; this Regiment seeing the hasty march of the other *Troops*, supposing it was occasion'd by the *Terror* of those that fell upon us in the Rear, under that apprehension in the most shameful manner in the World fled, without once drawing a Pistol, or offering to stand the least shock of the Enemy; whereupon those Four hundred Horse of the Rear Guard under my Command were surrounded, and I cannot tell by what Providence I was deliver'd, having for at least half an hour marcht *peste peste* amongst the Enemy; there was at this time so great a dust that those who fled could not as yet discern the coming of their Succours, and in that confusion disordered several of our own Squadrons that were wheeling to their Relief. The first that rallied were Five Troops of my Regiment, one Squadron being wholly broken by the Regiment which fled, the other behaved themselves so bravely, that the poor Prince of *Aremberg* and Count *Mellini*, Brother to a Cardinal of that Name, and at present *Nuntio* in Spain, both Captains in my Regiment, with Prince *Aremberg's* Cornet, and Eighty Cavaliers were kill'd upon the place.

The Duke of *Lorrain* at length having with much difficulty drawn up the rest of the Horse
hastened

hastned himself to us, where finding the foremost Squadrons, yet under a panick Fear, alighted from his Horse at the Head of his Men to let them see there was no danger, this Example gave fresh Courage to our Troops, and the Dust being somewhat abated, we discovered, that all this Disorder was only occasion'd by Six Thousand *Turks* and *Tartars*; We made up then to them, his Highness being in the Head of us, but they would not endure the very sight of our *Troops*, and 'twas in vain to follow them with our heavy *German Horse*, since our Light Horse was wanting, the Enemy flying with an incredible Swiftnes: But we learn'd from this, that which we since found, that these Six Thousand Horse were only to cover the gross of their Army, with the which they thinking it not so much for their purpose to Attacque *Raab*, as suppos'd was first design'd, were marching directly to *Vienna*. You will perhaps think it very strange that we should be no better inform'd of the Design and Marches of the Enemy, but not so much when you hear that all *Hungary* was against us, and not so much as a *Peasant* but for *Teckele*. And as for the Party that we sent out to scout on the *Plains* between *Raab* and *Vienna*, there could not a Man of them ha've escaped

had they been discovered ; such is the Number and Swiftnes of the Enemy. To conclude, my Lord, we are in a very desperate Condition. All *Hungary* is against us, the Court removed to *Passaw*, All *Austria* round *Vienna* from *Newstat* and *St. Hippolitt* in flames , and we not able to hinder it, having now only a Body of *Ten Thousand* Horse, at most, left with the Duke of *Lorraine* ; *Vienna* has been besieged these ten Days, and had not his Highness, out of his great Prudence and Conduct, clapt in *Ten* or *Eleven Thousand* Men into the Town, in that nick of Time, and the which was all the Foot he had in his Army, by this time the Place had certainly been lost. *Bavaria* is sending us *Ten Thousand* brave, but unexperienced Souldiers , and we shall be reinforced with *Ten Thousand* more from the *Emperor*. The King of *Poland* is obliged by our *Treaty* to march himself in Person at the Head of his Army to the Relief of *Vienna*, and the least Delay is lookt upon as most dangerous. *Saxony*, *Franconia* and *Brandenburgh* promise us their *Troops* , God grant they may all come in time. If *Vienna* should be taken, I cannot see the end of our miseries, but I hope God will not forsake his Cause, nor the House of *Austria* that has been ever so devoted to him.

From

From the Camp at Angrem, Aug. 17. 1683.

For the Earl of Carlinford at London.

I Received yours of the Seventeenth of July from *London*, and render God a thousand Thanks for saving our *Royal Master* the King and the Duke from that execrable Design of those wicked Assassines; Good God! What Madness is this? Let us view all *Europe*, and see, if we can find any Subjects so well treated, or who do enjoy so blessed a Peace as those of *England*; Or if there be any Nations in the World that do not envy the Happiness of ours; I have so great a Detestation for those Infamous Villains, that I shall henceforth look upon *Turks* and *Tartars* as the most honest Men. You have by this time doubtless received the Account I sent you of our *Campagne* from *Passaw*. The Lord *Lansdowne* delivered it to the *Spanish* Ambassadour, who promised to send it in his Pacquet to *Don Petro de Ronquillio* into *England*. The Duke of *Lorraine* has since had the good Fortune with Fourteen Thousand Horse to give a Defeat to *Teckeley's* Army, consisting of *Twenty Thousand Hungarians*, and *Six Thousand Turks* near *Presburgh*, where he was going to possess himself of the

the Town, and to be Crowned King of *Hungary* : We marcht up towards them by a *Defile*, [*i.e. Narrow Passage*] which they had lined with *Dragoons*, and though the *Enemy* were drawn up in good Order, they had not the Courage to make any opposition : Our *Avaunt Guard* was scarcely past, when a Panick Fear so seized those *Rebels*, that they presently fled, leaving the *Turks* to shift for themselves, who for a time retreated orderly, but the *Poles* seconded by some Regiments of our *Curiafiers* fell so furiously upon them that at last they were routed, leaving a *Thousand* of their Men dead behind them, with *Twelve Hundred* Wagons of Baggage, whereof our Men had the plunder, the *Rebels* Cavalry saving themselves by the Swiftnes of their Horses; and the few Foot they had in Woods and Mountains, which were inaccessible to our Horse; this blow was such a Terror to *Teckelej* that we saw him no more. *Vienna* has now been five weeks besieged, and although the *Enemy* took their Post the First day at the Foot of the *Glasfis* under protection of the *Suburbs*, which we neglected to demolish, they have spent four weeks in only gaining one Point of the Counterscarp, betwixt the *Bastion* of the Pallace, and that of *Lebell*. Five days ago they sprung

Sprung a Mine under the Point of the Ravelin
 betwixt the said two *Bastions*, where they gave
 a furious Assault, in hopes to have made a
 Lodgment of it, but they were repuls'd with
 great Loss, and we have it from the Prisoners
 themselves, as well as Spies we have in their
 Camp, that they have already lost above *Twelve
 Thousand Janizaries*. The *Bavarian* Succours of
Nine Thousand Men are already arrived at the
Bridge of Crembs, those of *Franconia* being *Eight
 Thousand* will be here to *Morrow*. The *Ele-
 ctor of Saxony* with *Ten Thousand Men* more
 is upon his March, but can hardly be with us
 before the end of the Month. The *King of
 Poland* is also coming with *Three or Four and
 Twenty Thousand Men*, and we are now a-
 bout *Three and Twenty Thousand Imperialists*,
 with which Troops we are resolved towards
 the end of this Month to succour *Vienna*, or dye
 in the Attempt; but if the *King of Poland* de-
 lay coming, and we find the Town much
 press'd, we shall endeavour the Relief of it
 without him; they assure us that the *Emperor*
 intends to be with us in Person, and I heartily
 wish it for his greater Glory. We think to pass
 the *Danube* at *Crembs*, a little Town about *Ten
 Leagues* up the River from *Vienna*, the Country
 thereabouts.

thereabouts is very Mountainous and Woody, till you come within a little League of the place. We shall have a Body of Thirty Thousand Foot, if the Enemy come to meet us they must then forsake some of their Posts, if they do not we shall have them betwixt us and the Town, and the Scituation thereof is such, that their Horse will be of little use to them, in which consists their greatest Force. My Lord Lansdowne is in great esteem with his Highness the Duke of Lorraine, and extreemly beloved by all the Officers and best Men of our Army.

*From the Camp at Korn, Neighbourgh upon
the Danube, Aug. 25th, 1683.*

For the Earl of Carlinford at London.

I Have given you in my Letters under Cover of Don Petro de Ronquillio, as well as in those from the Camp at Maregg, sent in the Governour of Flanders's Packet, a faithful Account of the State of Affairs here, as also what hath happened most remarkable in this Campagne. The Twenty First instant, the Duke of Lorraine left the Mark, a little fordable River that divides Austria and Moravia from Hungary, that he might the better get

get to the Banks of the *Danube*, above *Fulme* and *Crembs*, there to pass over for the disposing Matters for the great Affair, I mean, the relieving of *Vienna*, hoping that those two blows the Enemy had already received, as well as the King of *Poland's* March towards their Confines, might for a while retard their advancing in the Siege. Yesterday we encamped at *Stockeran*, where we were told, that a considerable Body of *Turks* and *Tartars* had past the *Mark*, and we were quickly convinc'd of the Truth of it, by the Flames of Five or Six Villages; which we saw Burning within a few Miles of our Camp, it being a barbarous Custom amongst those Infidels to set all on Fire wheresoever they march: Upon this his Highness, with a Flying Body of Ten Thousand Horse resolved to march immediately towards them; we found them, being about Twelve Thousand, drawn in Battalia near the Bridg of *Vienna*. His Highness in person charged on the right Wing, where the *Turks* gave a furious Onset, disordering some of our *Polish* Troops, but being presently seconded by some of our *German* Horse they were put to flight, with the loss of Three hundred of their Men, and Five Hundred more that were sent from the *Grand Visier's* Camp over the *Danube* in Boats,

thinking by the same means to save themselves, were so hotly pursued, that they were most of them drown'd in the River, leaving their Horses for a booty behind them. Our right wing extended it self to a little Wood, the left Wing, where I commanded spreading it self all along the Plains, which the Enemy seeing encouraged them to bend their chiefest Force against us, that they might fall upon us both in the Flank and Rear; but Prince *Lewis* of *Badin* ordering some of the Horse on the Right Wing, by easie Movements to close in with us, and the Enemy finding after several Attempts that they could not break us, but were always repulsed with Loss, despairing of Success, they drew off their Squadrons upon a little Hill within Musket-shot of us, by which they kept us from seeing any Reserve, that might possibly have lain hid behind them. At the same time that they seem'd thus ready to engage us, a *hundred and fifty* desperate *Turks* and *Tartars*, perceiving the distance that was betwixt our Squadrons, and the *Right Wing*, slipping behind the Wood fell upon us in the Rear, but I ordering two Squadrons of our Second Line to charge them, they were quickly disperst, and few of them escaped. We did expect the Enemy would have made

made use of this Disorder to attack us with their whole Body, but it was far otherwise, it serving them only as an opportunity to save themselves, by a hasty Retreat; We by this time finding that those Squadrons of theirs drawn up before us upon the said Hill were only to amuse and cover the Retreat of the rest, and it had been time lost to pursue them with our *Curiaffers*, who could not overtake them in a *Race Campagne*, they never keeping together, and are very nimble and run with great Swiftness, and impossible to get them into a Body, unless they please themselves; Our *Poles* might have indeed pursued them, but seem'd unwilling, and his Highness judging that they might probably be reinforced by *Teckele*, who but few days before was encamped near the *Mark*, thought not fit to pursue them any further, but to return to mind the great Affair, which now drew near: The Enemy lost besides those kill'd on the place, several Kettle Drums, and above twenty Colours in their Retreat. His *Highness* with singular Courage and Bravery conducted this Engagement with the Enemy, but too much exposed his Person, as he does too often upon all occasions. We are here still intent, and at the Eve of our great business,

finels, the Relief of Vienna. His Majesty of Poland with above Twenty Thousand Men will be with us in seven days. Bavaria, Saxony and Franconia have already sent us Seven and Twenty Thousand Men, and we are above Twenty Thousand Imperialists. If God be not against us, I hope in a few days to send you a Relation of a glorious Victory. My Lord Lansdowne did particularly signalize himself in this Action, being always in that part of the Fight where it was hottest, and he is certainly a very gallant young Man.

From the Grand Visier's Camp at Midnight, Septemb. 12th. 1683.

For the Earl of Carlingford at London.

WE have relieved Vienna, but if the Victory be not so compleat, as we promised our selves it should, it proceeded only from the Cowardise of our Enemies, whom from Morning till Night we drove before us, beating them from Post to Post, without their having once the Courage to look us in the Face, and that through several *Defiles*, [i.e. *Narrow Passages*] which had they any reasonable Courage we could never have

have forc'd. The Combat held longest where the King of Poland was, but that only added to his Glory, he having beaten them with the loss of their Canon, and a great number of their Men; They have left us their whole Camp in general, with their Tents, Bagg and Baggadg, and time will tell us more particulars. We intend to follow them to morrow; and it is impossible but there must be much more than we yet know; If night had not come on, at our very entring the Suburbs, we had certainly given them a total overthrow. My Lord Lansdown hath done me the Honour to accept the Command of a Troop of Horse in my Regiment; He is a very brave Youth, and Courts all Occasions to shew his Courage, and to distinguish himself; attracting the Friendship and Esteem of all our Army. I am just now told we have taken all the Grand Visier's Treasure, you shall hear more by the next.

From the Grand Visier's Camp at Midnight, Septemb. 12. 1683.

For His Excellency the Marquis of Grana Governor of the Spanish Netherlands, &c.

INstead of Vienna being relieved, and the Turks utterly defeated, I beg your pardon, if I tell You, that the Siege is only raised, and the Enemy

my

my forc'd to fly away, which was not our fault for from *Kölenberg* as far as *Filberg-Bastie* we pursued them from Hill to Hill, and from one *Desfilé* [i.e. from one narrow Pass to another] to another, they never having the Courage to stand before our Troops. I refer my self for the rest to *Monsieur Pseudhomme*, who is a very good Man, and deserves a Reward for the News he carries, in the which he bore a very particular Part, but less than he hoped, through the Cowardise of the Enemy, and I beg he may receive some Mark of your Favour. I have heretofore told you, that the King of *Poland* is *le plus honeste homme* of his Kingdom, and I must now tell you again, that there are few Kings now in the World who deserve better to be so than himself; and that his *Competitor*, our Duke of *Lorraine*, hath performed all the Parts of a great Captain and excellent Soldier, and hath withal so managed Matters, and found the way in this Conjunction of our Troops to accommodate so many Majesties and Electoral Highnesses and Sovereign Princes together, that there hath not been the least dispute or difference arisen amongst them. I take the Freedom to send you some of our Plunder from the *Turks*, being a very small presents: We have taken all the Enemies Tents in

in general, and you will admire the moderation of our Troops, who amidst so great a booty, pursu'd the Infidels from Camp to Camp; neither Officer nor Souldier once offering to touch any thing till they had first made sure of the Victory. I cannot yet learn the number of the Canon taken, nor how many were kill'd on the right Wing, against whom the King of Poland fought in Person, Monsieur Preudhomme will tell you the rest. 'Twas night before we got hither, which hindred us from pursuing them farther, but to morrow early we shall be at their heeles. I am for ever,

Yours, &c.

From the Camp near Presburg, Septemb. 22. 1683.

For the Earl of Carlingford at London.

I Did my self the Honour, my Lord, to give you a rough Draught of the Action of Vienna, the very same night that it happen'd, by an Officer of the Marquis of Grana's, whom he sent Express from Flanders, to bring him that great News, and I must add, that never Victory of so great Importance, cost so little blood. There were no Officers kill'd on our side but the Brother of the Prince de Crouy, the Count de Trantmanstorf Major, the Count de Batzi Captain of

of Dragoons, and some people of quality amongst the Poles, who stood the shock of a very rude Encounter, with a Transcendent Bravery. If the *Grand Visier* had been Master of his Trade, we could never have past from the Hills of *Kalemberg* to *Vienna*, without a bloody and desperate Engagement, and upon very disadvantageous Terms, we having three terrible *Defiles* to pass from the Mountains to the City; But God did so infatuate them, that they let our Foot and Dragoons quietly post themselves in such manner, as to secure our Cavalry, who passing but one and two at a time posted themselves under their very Noses. Their Retreat was so hasty that they left us all their Artillery in general, and the Account being made they are found, what in their Approaches and Camp, to amount to above *One hundred and Twenty* Pieces of Canon, with a prodigious quantity of Provisions both of Ammunition and Victuals, and all their Camp, without giving themselves so much Time as to take down a Tent. The Field was covered every where with all sorts of rich booty; Our *German Troops* marching through the middle of all this Spoil, and not a Soldier, either Foot or Horse went one Step out of his Rank to pillage, and we value

value the glory of this Continnence and Exactness of military Discipline more than all the Booty of the *Poles*, which was incredible, All the *Grand Visier's* Treasure fell to their share, the King confesseth he hath gotten great Riches and the Equipage of the *Grand Visier's* alone, which fell to his Lot is valued at *One Hundred Thousand Crowns*. The *Poles* have also taken the Great Standard of *Mahomett*, and the Horse Tails which the *Sultan* himself gave the *Grand Visier* on this great Expedition. Some of our Cavalry next day in rummaging their Tents, found betwixt *Five and Six Thousand Duckats* in ready Money, and amongst other things the Imperial Resident, who following the Army, was forgot behind their Camp, who assured us, that since the beginning of this Siege, their Army was lessened *Seventy Thousand Men*, and the *Turkish* Prisoners avow, that of *Forty Thousand Janizaries* which came before the place, there are not gone off *Eighteen Thousand*. If night had not come on us, at the very *Suburbs* of *Vienna*, we had made it an entire Victory; having already gain'd the *Defiles*, and the Enemy was in an extream Confusion, and had we but two hours more of Day-light, we should have driven them to the little River of *S...* where we might

might have had them at our Mercy, but they past it in the night, and though the Duke of *Lorraine* would have next Morning pursued them at Break of Day, yet the King of *Poland* thought it not fit, because his Horse had not drank in *Eight and Forty hours* before: But those who are given to detract say, that the *Polish* Troops, with whom the King is sometimes obliged to comply, had demanded one day more, to make an end of pillaging the *Turkish* Camp. We hope before the end of this Campaign to take some Place on the *Frontier*. *Teckelej* applies himself to the King of *Poland* for his Mediation. The *Grand Visier* enrag'd at this shameful loss, has since caused the Heads of the *Visier* of *Buda*, of two *Bassa's* and Five hundred Officers to be cut off, this will be a ready way to make an end of his Army, if he kill thus on one side, and we on the other. *Adieu*, In fine, it was high time to succour *Vienna*, there being two considerable Breaches in both the Bastions, and half of the Curtain undermin'd, the Garrison which consisted of *Twelve Thousand Men* reduced to *Four Thousand*, and certainly never any Garrison behav'd it self better. I am endeavouring to get a Draught of the Place, and the Attacks to present to the King and his
 Royal

Royal Highness, and here's an Engineer upon the Place has promised to do it very well. My Lord *Lansdowne* will have the Honour to see the closing of this *Campagne*, as thinking it not sufficient to have bore his Part in the Relief of *Vienna* and defeating the *Turk*. It were to be wisht the Elector of *Saxe* had taken the same consideration along with him, but he quitted the Army the very day after the Succour of *Vienna*, finishing his *Campagne* with the Glory of Relieving the Town. The Elector of *Bavaria* with his Troops as well as those of *Franconia* march with us still, being resolv'd to see the end of this *Campagne*.

From the Camp near Barrakan over against Gran, Octob. 10. 1683.

For the Earl of Carlingford at London.

I Sent you a short Account of the Relieving of *Vienna*, and of the shameful flight of the Enemy from before it, of which that advantage was not made that might otherwise have been by reason of the backwardness of the Poles to follow the pursuit next day. But the *Grand Visier* being enrag'd at this Disgrace, discharged his Fury upon the Officers of his Army, having strangled the *Visier* of *Buda*, a Man of Eighty years of Age, (and as he was

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perhaps the most able Person of the *Ottoman* Empire, so would he have prov'd the more dangerous Enemy to him) with four other *Basla's*, and *Four or Five Hundred* other Officers, upon pretence that they did not do their parts, and disobeyed his Orders. The Count *Budiani* an *Hungarian* Lord, who after our Retreat at *Raab*, revolted with a considerable Party of his Country-men to the Rebel *Teckeley*, to give the Emperor a convincing Proof of his sincere Repentance, cut in pieces *two thousand Auxiliary Turks* that the *Grand Visier* had sent to reinforce him, and tho the advantage we got by his Treason was very great, yet we could not but abhor the Traitor. On the *Fifth* instant the *Polish* Army with our Cavalry past the *Danube* at *Gomor-ra*, leaving our foot one days march behind; but the Duke of *Lorraine* having resolved to attack *Barrakan*, was forc'd to stay some time for the Foot, because those of *Bavaria* were for some unhappy Reasons six days march from us: The King being told that there were not above *Five Thousand Turks* in *Barrakan* made his Troops hastily advance towards it, without once acquainting his Highness with the Design, and thinking himself sure, and that his very Avaunt Guard would have carried it, he did not so much as
 march

march his Troops in *Battalia*, but his Ambition and the great contempt he had of the Enemy upon the Success of *Vienna* cost him dear ; instead of the *Five Thousand Men* which he was told of, he found in a bottom under the very Cannon of *Barrakan* a Body of Twelve Thousand, who instantly attackt the Avaunt Guard of the *Poles* with such a Fury, that though they behaved themselves bravely, they were at last forc'd into their main Body, and that in such confusion, that the whole Army which had not then time to draw up into *Battaile* seized with a panick Fear had been entirely routed, had not the Duke of *Lorraine* (who by this time heard of the Kings departure) made his Troops hastily follow, and so kept them from farther disorder. My Brigade had this day the Avaunt Guard, and his Highness ordering me to make haste, tho we had a *Defile* to pass about half an hours march from the Enemy, yet our Troops carryed on with a desire to redress the loss, and repair the affront received by their Allies, past it with all chearfulness, and so in a very little time we drew up in a Line of Fifteen Squadrons. The Arrival thus of our Troops put soon a stop to the Carriere of the *TURKS*, and gave us an Opportunity thereby of passing the
rest

rest of our Men , and to the Poles of knowing each other. The Enemy thus contenting themselves with the advantage they had gotten over the Poles, retired in good order into the bottom where they were first, and we thought it not then safe to follow them farther with the Poles, who were, as it were stund with the blow they had received, and under an apprehension that the *Grand Visier's* whole Army was there; They thereupon encamp'd themselves about an hours distance from *Barrakan* near the *Danube*, and the King was then of opinion to stay for the coming up of the Foot, before they should attempt any thing farther. There were about *One Thousand Poles* kill'd most of them Dragoons, who having alighted from their Horses in a Plain were abandoned by the Horse, and so cut in pieces by the Enemy ; the King ventur'd as far as any Man with his usual undaunted Courage, and had it not been for a *German Cavalier* that serv'd him, he had then certainly been either kill'd or taken Prisoner, and his Majesty in Requital made him a Colonel. The next day the *Mareschal Comte de Staremborg* who so bravely defended *Vienna* came with *Eight Thousand Foot* to us. The Poles were so disheartened by their wounds, which were yet bleeding, and apprehending

hending, that the *Grand Visier* with the rest of his Army might be near at hand, that they did endeavour to divert the King from any farther vigorous Action at that time, but the Duke of *Lorraine* did so strongly press the contrary, that they were at last brought to it. We march'd in *Battalia* the ninth instant towards the Enemy, his Highness giving the *Poles* their choice where to post themselves, but instead of the right wing which till then they always affected, they divided themselves on both the Wings, and on our Reserve. The Enemy seeing us thus march towards them came out of their bottom, ranging themselves in *Battaile*, and by the Confession of those Prisoners that make them the most, the *Turks* did not exceed *Sixteen Thousand Men*, and certainly there never was committed a greater nor worse supported rashness, but yet they stood us with that boldness at first, that the whole *Grand Visier's* Army could not have done more, and not being able to front our whole Line, they drew up to the Right, and without once attempting to attack the *German Squadrons* fell with an incredible Fury on those *Poles* they found on our Left, hoping to find as cheap a business of't as they had done the day before: But the Great General of *Poland Iablonouski* receiv'd them so briskly,

briskly, that it stopt their Fury, and at the same time we charging them with our first Line of *Curiaffeers* put them totally into disorder. The Defeat of those was immediately followed with a general Rout of all their Troops, and the flock of the first Line of our said Left Wing was so vigorous and succesful, that neither my Lord *Lansdowne*, to whom I had given the Command of a Squadron in my Regiment, nor I myself, who commanded the Second Line of the Wing that was attacked had either of us occasion to fire a Pistol: His Highness let loose the first Line of *Curiaffeers*, the *Croats*, and some *Poles* to the pursuit of those that fled, whom we chased with the points of our Swords in their backs to the very Fort of *Barrakan*, making a most terrible Slaughter of them, the Crowd of those that thought to save themselves by the Bridge was so great, that the Bridge broak under them, and there were abundance of them who threw themselves into the *Danube* rather than they would stand the Fury of our Men, and the Revenge of the *Poles*. It is most certain that with those who were slain, and those who were drown'd, the better half of their Number perished, and one shall seldome find in a pitch'd Battle a greater loss of Men, these were

were the very flower of the *Turkish Army*, commanded by the new *Visier* of *Buda*, *Ali Bassa* of *Aleppo*, and Six other *Bassa's*, the *Visier* of *Buda* was kill'd, the *Bassa's* of *Aleppo* and *Silestria* are taken Prisoners, and a third *Bassa* was drown'd. We have also saved about six hundred Prisoners from the Fury of the *Poles*, and there are certainly taken above *three thousand Horses* and at least as many drown'd. The taking of *Barra-kan* was a consequence of this Victory, our Men entering it without Opposition, though there were several *Janizaries*, and many others retired into it. But the *Poles* having first sackt and pillaged, seeing some of their Comrades heads which the *Turks* had pitch'd in Parade all along the Pallizadoes of the Fort, did brutally in Revenge burn that place of Importance which we would have preserved. Let us however give thanks to God who has thus so visibly shewn himself in his own, and our Cause by delivering our Enemies into our hands. I shall continue to Give you a Faithful Relation of what passes here, and do intreat you to communicate it to His Majesty and the Duke.

His most humble servant
 John Churchill
 Duke of Marlborough
 E A

A Letter from an English Nobleman, a Volunteer in the Imperial Army, to his Father
at LONDON.

From the Imperial Camp before Gran, Octob. 10. 1683.

My Land,

THE same day that we delivered *Pienna*, I sent your Lordship the News, by an Express that was dispatched to the Marquiss of *Grana*, and have since given your Lordship a larger Account thereof; since which we have without opposition advanced in *Hungary*, and some six days ago with the German and *Polsk* Horse crossed the *Danube* at *Gomora*, leaving our Canon and Infantry behind us, resolving after one days march, to leading us into a Country of Forage, to stay for them; but the King of *Poland* having Advice, that Four Thousand *Turks* had passed the River at *Gran*, by break of day next Morning, without giving any notice to the Duke of *Lorraine*, marched with his Dragoons and *Muskers* towards them, but finding them much stronger than he was informed they were, his Majesty was beaten, and his Troops in great disorder, and his person in danger, and pursued by the Enemy till they saw our Horse appear, which by good luck marched some two hours after the *Poles*, by the Duke of *Lorraine's* Command, who was in the head of them; upon which the *Turks* ceased their pursuit, and retired under the Canon of *Gran*, and we encamped within sight of them till the next day the *Eight* instant, that our Infantry came up to us, upon which yesterday we marched in *Battle*

tail towards them, and found them posted in the same posture to receive us; the first Line of our Left Wing about noon charged their Right with so much vigour & Success, that the Infidels were forced to give way, and not long afterwards their whole Army betook themselves to flight, and were pursued by ours to the River side, into which they precipitated themselves, in so much that very few of them escaped, after this the same night we attacked *Barrakan*, a Fort on this side of the *Danube* at the head of the Bridge of *Gran*, and have taken it by Assault; Our Prisoners tell us, they were Sixteen Thousand Men chosen out of the best of their Troops, and sent thither by the *Grand Visier* to hinder us from ruining that Bridge, by which they had their Communication with the Rebels, *Caramanmett Bassa*, lately made *Visier* of *Buda*, who commanded there in chief was kill'd upon the place; *Ali Bassa* of *Aleppo* and the *Bassa* of *Silestria* are taken Prisoners, another *Bassa* is drown'd, and their loss to speak modestly of it, exceeds the number of *Eight Thousand Men*. The frequent occasions of Action we meet with, hinders me from quitting the Army as yet, altho most *Voluntiers* of any Consideration, except our Countrymen, are already returned, and that the season in this Country is very troublesome, nay not supportable, were it not for the continual Favours I do daily receive from my Lord *Traff*, and as occasion offers from his *Highness*, and all the chief Officers of the Army, some of my Servants being dead, and almost all sick, I am with utmost respect,

My Lord,

Your, &c.

Another Letter from the same hand directed as the former.

From Presburg, Novemb. the 7th. 1683.

My Lord,

IN My last to your Lordship, I gave an Account of the Battle we gain'd over the *Turks* near *Gran*, and our taking *Barrakan* by Assault the same day, since which we have crossed the River, besieged and taken *Gran* it self, and that without any great loss, they having within three days after our Batteries were finished asked to capitulate and surrender the Place, with their Cannon, Munition, &c. up to us. After this, there being no prospect of any more *Action* this year, upon the first instant I left the *Army* with the Elector of *Bavaria*, and waited on him as far as *Gomorra*, where I left his Electoral *Highness*, and went myself to *Raab*, not being willing to leave unseen a place, which all over this part of the World is called *Propugnatulum Christianitatis*, from whence yesterday, through a burnt and desolate Country I came hither, where I found my Brother *Fohn* and Mr. *Alman*, whom I was surprized to find at this time of the year making towards the Army; I must confess I am heartily sorry that my Brothers Sickness did hinder him from meeting me going to the Army in *July*, instead of coming from it in *November*; for then he might have seen three ranged Battles fought, besides skirmishes with the Infidels, the famous Siege of *Vienna* raised, a Fort stormed, a Town antiently of great Note, the *Metropolis* of *Hungary*, and long in Possession of the *Turks*, besieged and taken at the later end of *October*, and several other Places and Castles of Importance, rendred to the victorious Arms of the *Christians*,


which is more than has been, or than probably will be seen in any three Months this *hundred years*; from hence I intend to set out to morrow for *Vienna*, and from thence to *Lintz* to wait upon his *Imperial Majesty* before my return, from whence I will immediately, in obedience to your Lordships commands, dispatch Mr. *Alman* for *England*: And as for my Brother whom you are pleased to commit to my care, do assure your Lordship, that as I have nothing but what I hold from your Goodness, so all that I have shall be in common between us, and believe me ever with utmost respect,
My Lord, *Your, &c.*

Lintz Jan. 4. 1684.

For the Earl of Carlingford at London.

ABout two days since I received two of your most welcome Letters, one whereof had (in seems) first made the Tour of *Hungary*, I am overjoyed to hear that the King and his Royal Highness seem satisfied with my Relations, because they are two Persons whom I Infinitely Love, and Reverence as I ought, and whom I very well know to be of most discerning Judgments; I confess I am proud to think that I have some part in their good Opinions. My Lord *Lansdowne* hath been pleased to set too great a value upon those little Services I have done him, he is a very brave Cavalier, and the most obliging, best conditioned Man I know, and as he does me the *Honour* to love me, so he would procure me the like Favour with my Lord his Father, whom I most highly honour. The Emperor sends him into *England* with the quality of a Count of the Empire, to shew the consideration he has for brave Men, and although it cannot add any thing

thing to the Lustre of his noble Family, yet his Posterity will have no reason to be displeased at his having gain'd it upon so glorious an occasion, nevertheless I desire you to publish nothing of this without the permission of my Lord of *Bathe*. We have now by the taking of *Gran*, otherwise *Strigonium*, finish'd our *Campagne*, notwithstanding the opposition of the *Poles*, who did all that was possible to divert us from it, in a Season which in truth was not so proper to make War. The Easiness that the Duke of *Lorraine* found in making a Bridge, convinc'd him of the Consternation the Enemy was in, and that he ought to make the best use of it. His Highness pass'd the *Danube* without the *Poles*, and in spite of the Rain that fell continually, he push'd on the Siege with that Vigour, that at the end of five days he made himself Master of the Town, it is a place not strong, save only by its situation, nor considerable, but for passing the *Danube*, and commanding a great extent of the Country; It is the *Metropolis* of *Hungary*, and in the last Age cost the *Christians* as well as *Turks* a Siege of several Months. This taking of *Gran* was soon followed by a Reducement of the Rebels, who of themselves came in and begged Pardon. The *Poles* for their Quarters chose the upper *Hungary*, promising to reduce *Caschau* and *Eszperies*, but finding greater opposition than they imagined, they rather chose to leave it, then run the Risk of so troublesome a Quarter, but the *Imperialists* made sure of theirs by the taking of *Leutschau* and many other Castles, from whence they drove the Rebels. There are who suspect an understanding betwixt some of the Polish Officers and the Rebels, but for my own part I believe nothing of it, and the reason why I suppose they did not

not reduce *Caschau*, was because they wanted both Foot and Provisions, thinking that by the sole Reputation of their Arms, and presence of the King, they might have carryed it, and besides that, besieging of Towns is not their business. My Lord *Lansdowne* will bear me Witness that I did all was possible even before your sending to me, to find out a Couple of fine *Turkish Horses* for you, but upon my word we could find none worth the trouble, for all that were better then ordinary were taken by the *Poles*, and other of our Generals, who were more eager after plunder than my self, I have bought a *Turkish Tent* without seeing it, but they say it is very fine, with some *Turkish Arms*, which are also curious in the kind, which I intend to send by way of *Hamburg*, and you may make a Present of them to the King or Duke, if you think it worth their *Acceptance*, or otherwise dispose of them as you think best. I will send you when you please the Duke of *Lorraine's* Picture, and I  if I can, procure that of the King of *Poland's* too. My Lord *Lansdowne's* Courrier is just a going, so that I cannot now say any thing of the business of *Nembesfeld*, but will by the first send you an Account of that, as well as other matters which I purpose to write you. I am for ever
Yours, &c.

Lintz Jan. 5. 1684.

For the Earl of Bathe at London.

My Lord,

I know not what my Lord *Lansdowne* can have written to your Lordship in my Favour, to draw from you such obliging Expressions of Civility and Goodness to me, as I find all your Letters fill'd with, the
Truth

Truth is, it is I, who have a Thousand Obligations to
 my Lord, your Son, for making his Campagne with
 me, and giving me so distinct a mark of his Friendship,
 as there is not a gallant Man of the greatest conside-
 ration in all the Army but would think himself ho-
 noured with it. *He* found us in a Condition which
 would have discouraged any man but himself; Our
Army by reason of the great Garrisons which we were
 forced to leave in *Raab* and *Vienna* reduced to a flying
 Body of *Seven Thousand Horse*, the Court in Retreat,
 which might have justified him if he had followed
 so great an Example, but he would finish what he had
 begun, and the truth is we may date our good Fortune
 from the time that he came amongst us. *He* had a part
 in the defeat of the *Turks* at *Presburg*, *Kornneiburg*,
Vienna and *Barrakan*, and in the taking of *Gran*; *He*
 hath signalized himself every where, and done like the
 Son of such a *Father*, and so illustrious *Ancestors*; and
 if he have suffered in this Campagne, which was one
 of the rudest that we have made a long time, he re-
 turns loaded with Glory, and the marks of a particu-
 lar esteem from *His Imperial Majesty*, and leaves a me-
 mory of his Person behind him, which will ever do ho-
 nour to his *Family* and *Country*; I pray God, my Lord,
 that you may long enjoy one another, and that I may
 enjoy you both, I will seek all occasions of meriting by
 my most humble Services that part in the honour of
 your *Favour*, which you allow me before-hand by a
 meer effect of your Generosity, and that I may have the
 means to do it, I conjure you as soon as may be to send
 us back our Lord *Lansdowne*. The King can employ no
 Person in this Court, who will be more acceptable,
 or more capable to serve him. I am with respect,
 My Lord, Your most humble, and most obedient Servant,
 TAAFFE.

